

REMARKS

Claims 82-112 are pending, with claims 82, 97, and 112 being independent. Claims 1, 2, 6-8, 11-37, 41, 44-61, and 63-81 have been cancelled and claims 82-112 have been added by this amendment. The combination of features recited by claims 82-112 distinguishes over the references of record. In view of the present amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Boyer Rejection

Claims 71-72 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Boyer (U.S. Patent No. 6,268,849). This rejection is obviated by the cancellation of claims 71-72.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Legall / Alten Rejection

Claims 1-2, 6-8, 11-23, 26-30, 34-37, 41, 44, 56, 59-61, and 64-67 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Legall (U.S. Patent No. 6,005,565) in view of Alten (U.S. Patent No. 5,635,978). This rejection is obviated by the cancellation of claims 1-2, 6-8, 11-23, 26-30, 34-37, 41, 44, 56, 59-61, and 64-67.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Legall / Alten / Ballard Rejection

Claims 24-25, 31-33, and 57-58 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Legall (U.S. Patent No. 6,005,565) in view of Alten (U.S. Patent No. 5,635,978) and further in view of Ballard (U.S. Patent No. 6,182,050). This rejection is obviated by the cancellation of claims 24-25, 31-33, and 57-58.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Ballard / Legall / Alten Rejection

Claims 63 and 69 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ballard (U.S. Patent No. 6,182,050) in view of Legall (U.S. Patent No. 6,005,565) and further in view of Alten (U.S. Patent No. 5,635,978). This rejection is obviated by the cancellation of claims 63 and 69.

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35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Legall / Alten Rejection

Claims 68 and 70 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Legall (U.S. Patent No. 6,005,565) in view of Alten (U.S. Patent No. 5,635,978). This rejection is obviated by the cancellation of claims 68 and 70.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Boyer / Alten Rejection

Claims 73-81 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boyer (U.S. Patent No. 6,268,849) in view of Alten (U.S. Patent No. 5,635,978). This rejection is obviated by the cancellation of claims 73-81.

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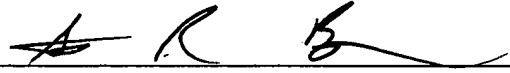
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Applicant asks that all claims be examined in view of the amendment to the claims.
Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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